



SOCIAL SECURITY

Refer to:

S9H: SSA-2019-002613

June 12, 2019

Ms. Emma Best
MuckRock News Dept
MR 747999 411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144
74799-21754924@requests.muckrock.com

Dear Ms. Best:

I am responding to your request for a fee waiver regarding your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for:

1. Documents describing or generated as part of the establishment of any different processing queues for FOIA requests
2. Documents describing the rules and procedures governing any different processing FOIA queues
3. Documents, produced in the previous 15 years, containing reports or statistics describing the FOIA processing queues
4. Documents describing procedures for the handling or coordination of requests from high volume FOIA requesters
5. Documents describing procedures, rules and prerequisites for any exceptions to processing requests in a "first in, first out" process
6. Documents describing procedures and rules for the processing of especially complex or delicate FOIA requests
7. Documents describing procedures and rules for the processing of 'high visibility' FOIA requests, such as those which are likely to elicit reactions from the media or the public
8. Documents describing procedures and rules for the processing of FOIA requests from members of Congress and federal government agencies

9. Documents describing procedures and rules for the processing of FOIA requests from non-federal law enforcement agencies

I have decided not to waive or reduce the fee.

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii)) provides that agencies will furnish documents at no charge or at a reduced charge if disclosing information is in the public interest because:

- it is likely to contribute significantly to the public's understanding of the government's operations or activities, and
- it is not primarily in the requester's commercial interest.

Our regulation (see 20 C.F.R. § 402.185(b)) lists factors we consider in analyzing whether disclosure is in the public interest. These factors include:

- how the records pertain to the Federal government's operations or activities,
- whether disclosure would reveal any meaningful information about government operations or activities not already known to the public,
- whether the disclosure will advance the general public's understanding as distinguished from a narrow segment of interested persons, and
- whether the contribution to public understanding would be significant.

While the documents you have requested may reveal meaningful information about the Social Security Administration's (SSA) operations and activities, you have not indicated how you will use this information to significantly advance the general public's understanding. Therefore, we cannot waive the fee.

If you have questions, or would like further assistance with your request, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison by email at FOIA.Public.Liaison@ssa.gov; by phone at 410-965-1727, by choosing Option 2; or facsimile at 410-966-0869.

You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration for dispute resolution services. OGIS is an entity outside of the Social Security Administration that offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll-free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you disagree with this decision, you may file a written appeal with the Executive Director for the Office of Privacy and Disclosure, Social Security Administration, G-401 WHR, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted to FOIA.Public.Liaison@ssa.gov within 90 days of the date of our response to your initial request. Please mark the envelope or subject line with "Freedom of Information Appeal."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a wavy line.

Monica Chyn
Acting Freedom of Information Officer